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POLAND: Walesa Speaks Out

Release yesterday of the apparent text of Walesa's speech for a planned demonstration in Gdansk tomorrow suggests the regime told the former union leader he will not be allowed to appear. [REDACTED]

In his statement Walesa urged that Solidarity supporters work hard to create independent unions representing workers, youth, and artists and to give meaning to the concept, sponsored by the regime, of self-management in the factories. He also attempted to build up flagging morale by saying that "ours will be the victory." In a private letter to the president of the International Labor Organization, Walesa expressed hope for renewed cooperation. [REDACTED]

A regime spokesman on Monday implied that Walesa would not be permitted to speak and also warned that any protests would violate martial law regulations and would be broken up. According to the Western press, police have already cordoned off the area around the Gdansk shipyard monument. [REDACTED]

Meanwhile, Polish media late yesterday announced a government decision to cut back severely scientific and cultural exchanges with the US and to limit the issuance of visas to US officials. [REDACTED]

Comment: Walesa apparently believes he must speak out--with discretion--if only to put pressure on the regime and to show he cannot be ignored. He may not push ahead with plans to speak at the demonstration, instead making an appearance at a local church and allowing the Western press and the underground to disseminate the substance of his statement. By continuing to issue statements, however, Walesa may be testing the regime's tolerance. [REDACTED]

Some sporadic street protests are possible tomorrow in some of the larger cities, despite regime warnings. The authorities will take the necessary security measures to prevent them from getting out of hand. [REDACTED]

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